



A dog-friendly place to shop

Canadian Tire allows all types of customers

10



Elvis alive and well in Fort Erie

Local man heading to festival in Collingwood

42



Cannons on a winning streak

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KRIS DUBÉ Fort Erie Times

Ward 1 Coun. Stephen Passero, left, Mayor Doug Martin, Ward 5 Coun. Don Lubberts, Niagara Falls MPP Kim Craitor, Ward 4 Coun. John Hill and Ward 6 Coun. Paul Collard at last Sunday's grand opening ceremony for the new Ridgeway Village Square on Ridge Rd.

Village square open for all

Kris Dubé
Editor

The new village square in Ridgeway is a cornerstone of the area, says Ward 4 Coun. John Hill.

"It's a place where we can share some laughs,

some conversation and get to know each other as a community," said the Ridgeway councillor at a grand opening for the monumental downtown feature on the weekend.

The \$5.8-million project was all part of repaving the

road, replacing sewers and watermain, and enhancing the streetscape with new sidewalks, lighting and trees.

In addition, Ridge Rd. now connects to the Friendship Recreational Trail, part of the Greater

Niagara Circle Route and the Trans Canada Trail System. When work began on the streetscaping about four years ago, some businesses in the area were faced with challenges.

Mayor Doug Martin said merchants in the area who

did find it difficult working around such an intense construction project should be thanked for their patience.

See Page 2

Local merchants. Huge savings. No strings attached.



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KRIS DUBÉ: Fort Erie Times

Ward 4 Coun. John Hill cooling off in the water feature with some local children at the new Ridgeway Village Square last Sunday.



KRIS DUBÉ: Fort Erie Times

Several people of all ages attended last Sunday's ceremony to officially open the Ridgeway Village Square.

Businesses deserve pat on the back, says Martin

From Page 1

"Congrats to all those businesses that were able to persevere and suffer through those tough times," said Martin.

The mayor also said staff at town hall should be recognized for being successful in receiving the government funding to make

this project a reality.

But in his closing remarks said the entire municipality should be proud of this project.

"This is a great benefit to all of Fort Erie and Ridgeway," said Martin.

Niagara Falls MPP Kim Craitor said politicians and governments often get criticized for wasting money, but the money that was put into this project was well spent because it created jobs and greatly improved Ridgeway's downtown. "It's just amazing what is happening to Ridgeway," said Craitor. "It really has become a hotspot for this area."

The provincial and federal governments each contributed close to \$2 million toward the cost of the project through the Infrastructure Stimulus Fund. The Town of Fort Erie also kicked in close to \$2 million to help complete the project.

-with files from QMI Agency Niagara

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Notice of Public Information Centres on Proposed Zip Line Program

Thursday, August 1, 2013

1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

&

5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

**Niagara Parks School of Horticulture - Lecture Hall
 2565 Niagara Parkway, Niagara Falls, Ontario**

Following extensive evaluation of this new concept, The Niagara Parks Commission (NPC) is seeking further public input on proposed plans for a potential zip line program within the Park. Members of the public will have an opportunity to meet NPC officials, as well as the potential proponent, to review the proposed concept plans and provide comments that will contribute to the evaluation process.

Before any final decision is made, the Commission wishes to hear from the public and receive their input on how a potential zip line attraction could be implemented within the Park, as has been done successfully in other ecologically sensitive destinations throughout the world.

About The Zip Line Proposal Process:

Following two public information centres held on the concept in the fall of 2012, a request for qualifications and formal request for proposals was issued by NPC. An NPC evaluation team completed its review of the submissions received, under the guidance of a Fairness Consultant. The team has now identified the highest ranked proponent.

Following the sessions, there will be a two-week period between August 2 - 16, where members of the public will be invited to provide comments on the proposed plans. During this time, information about the zip line and an opportunity to provide comments will be provided online at www.niagaraparks.com/zipline.

Comments may also be mailed to:
 Zip Line Comments

The Niagara Parks Commission, Communications Department
 P.O. Box 159, 7400 Portage Road
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Submitted

Last weekend, Team Kelsey held a tournament at Fort Erie Golf Club, raising money for families affected by cancer, Ronald McDonald House and McMaster's Stem Cell and Cancer Research Institute. At the tournament, a family from Port Colborne donated \$3,500 from a Star Wars-themed event called 'Jace Wars,' named after the family's son Jace, in honour of Kelsey Hill. Seen here are Corrie Hill, Derek Hill, Lana Hill, Jace and his parents Aaron Russell and Desiree Nolet.

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Veteran officer facing charges

An eight-year member of the Niagara Regional Police force has been charged with two counts of assault after a domestic dispute.

The officer was arrested at his Bridgewater home on the morning of July 21 after allegations of assault with his common law partner. As a result, he was charged with two counts of assault, one

count of mischief under \$5,000, one count of unsafe storage of a firearm and two counts of unsafe storage of a prohibited device.

The off-duty officer is currently assigned to the Casino Unit and was held in custody pending a bail hearing the morning of July 22.

He has been suspended from duty with pay.

Bridges health centre reports \$233,000 missing

Allan Benner
QMI Agency Niagara

The Niagara Regional Police fraud unit is investigating after about \$233,000 was allegedly misappropriated from Bridges Community Health Centre.

Bridges president Russ Wilson said the health centre, with offices at 177 King St. in Port Colborne and 1485 Garrison Rd. in Fort Erie, learned about 11 months ago that funds had been taken from the organization during the previous four years. An unidentified employee was subsequently fired.

Police were called following a forensic audit conducted on the health centre earlier this year.

Although Wilson said the completion of the investigation "is imminent," the detective conducting the investigation couldn't predict how much longer it will take.

"I have to rely on documentation from outside sources and it's really out of my control as far as when I receive that information," said Det. Bill Stockill. "To put a time limit on it, I really can't."

He could not say Wednesday whether an

arrest will be made at the conclusion of the investigation.

"It's way too early," Stockill said.

Asked if the provincial government-funded organization has stepped up security or added additional safeguards as a result of the alleged fraud, Wilson said "it's business as usual."

"We've been able to maintain our level of service to our clients," Wilson said. "That was not impacted. We're just moving along as normal, and normal practices are instituted as they would be in any of these cases."

Stockill said fraud cases like the one he's currently investigating are far too common.

"I investigated one — it took a couple of years — a retailer in Niagara Falls. The former employee was dipping into company funds for a few years and it resulted in a couple of hundred thousand dollars in loss."

That investigation led to an 11-month jail sentence for the former employee of that company.

See Page 17

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opinion page

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Do You Remember?

Last week's photo of the diners with hats sparked a flurry of activity in the community, with multiple calls to the Museum, as well as Museum volunteer Darla Love visiting Garrison Place to speak to residents.

Our thanks to Doug Scott, Darla Love, Audrey and Ernie Maskell, and Edith Love, for identifying from left to right: possibly Meriam McKillop, and Mary McMurtrie, Fred Sanders,

Celia Baechler, and Doris Love.

All of these people were identified as members of the former Central United Church in Fort Erie.

This week's photo shows a raffle draw taking place.

If you recognize anyone in the photo, or if you were the lucky winner, please call the Fort Erie Historical Museum 905-894-5322 or e-mail museum@forterie.on.ca.



Ridgeway sets example of town's potential



Kris Dubé
Editor's Notebook

In no way shape or form do I want to make this sound like a slight towards other areas of Greater Fort Erie, but in my opinion Ridgeway is

the place to be.

The recent summer festival and even the ceremony to officially open the civic square last weekend is proof that the little village is thriving and doing well.

The Sanctuary Centre for the Arts, a handful of watering holes and all the shops in the downtown core seem to be destinations out of town visitors, but especially in my age demographic appear to be very enthu-

siastic about.

Go to Ridgeway any weekend and you will be able to find something to do.

Whether it's a night of dancing, an afternoon at the village square or even a couple hours around the corner at Bay Beach, there is plenty of opportunity for people of all kinds to find a serious dose of enjoyment.

But I also need to add that other parts of town

certainly have the same potential, but in order to spruce them up the way Ridgeway has been improved over the last few years, there needs to be money in place to make that happen.

The village square in Ridgeway became a reality after a plan was started almost 10 years ago by Town staff, who were successful in getting government stimulus funding to allow for these improvements.

People need to be aware that the project in Ridgeway is not at the expense of other areas in town.

Plans to build the community meeting centre began long before it was determined the Kinsmen Pool wouldn't open.

Town Hall didn't decide to install a water feature similar to a splash pad at the site instead of putting one in the north end of town,

despite what some people are so ready to assume.

The people of Ridgeway, its business people and its visitors all deserve the attention received in the last little while and hopefully this success will trickle into other parts of town, giving the municipality a chance to show off its full potential.

kris.dube@sunmedia.ca

opinion page

Conservatives hurting Northern families

Dear Editor,

The Conservative government's mismanagement of the North has made its cost of living to soar and caused shortages of basic services, hurting families and jeopardizing the economic potential of the region.

His bungling of adjustments to the federally-funded Nutrition North program has sent food prices skyrocketing, some reportedly as

high as 250%. This makes the cost of living increasingly out of reach for families.

Grossly inadequate housing has left too many without a place to live. Nunavut alone needs an estimated 3000 new housing units, and another 90 each year simply to keep up with population growth.

Too many communities still lack access to fast, reliable internet service, undermining business development and skills training. And

a lack of basic health and mental health services is undermining the foundations of communities—the very basis of their prosperity.

With bountiful natural resources and a quickly growing population, the North is building a strong economy. Yet its full potential cannot be realized if families cannot afford healthy food, cannot find a place to live and cannot get the supports they need.

Mr. Harper needs to be more than a tourist when he visits the North for his annual Arctic photo-op later this summer—he should get in touch with the everyday realities of Northern Canadian families and commit to providing them the same opportunities other Canadians enjoy.

Yvonne Jones
Liberal MP and Northern
Development Critic

Premiers Urged to Address Housing Crisis at Council of the Federation

Dear Editor,

A group of over 50 organizations from across Canada has signed a joint letter to Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne urging her to place housing at the top of the agenda as she hosts the provincial and territorial premiers for the July 22-24 meeting of the Council of the Federation in Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ont.

Led by Dignity for All: the campaign for a poverty-free Canada, the letter calls on the premiers to ask the federal government to recommit \$1.7 billion in vital operating funds for social housing providers that is presently set to expire in 2014 – a recommendation echoed by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities and the Canadian Housing

and Renewal Association.

The diverse group of signatories also requests a call from the premiers for an immediate federal-provincial-territorial housing ministers' meeting to take further action on housing. Such a meeting could engage key stakeholders and lay the groundwork for a national housing strategy based in human rights that respects provincial jurisdiction.

Lellani Farha, Executive Director at Canada Without Poverty, points to repeated calls to develop a national housing strategy. "Across the country and within the United Nations system, it is recognized that Canada is in a housing crisis. As recently as April, members of the UN Human Rights Council reiterated the need for a national housing strategy in order for

Canada to comply with its human rights commitments and obligations." Farha also noted that, "While the federal government has ignored these recommendations, the premiers have an opportunity to bring the government back to the table."

"At least 200,000 people are homeless each year while waiting lists for affordable housing continue to grow," says Simon Lewchuk, Policy Analyst with Citizens for Public Justice. "The links between inadequate housing, poverty, and health are clear. If the premiers don't push the federal government to take action on housing now, they'll pay the social and economic costs later."

Organizations endorsing the letter include national groups such as:

the Anglican Church of Canada, Campaign 2000: end child and family poverty in Canada, Canadian Alliance to End Homelessness, Canadian Association of Social Workers, Canadian Council on Social Development, Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW), Canadian Nurses Association, Canadian Public Health Association, Canadian Unitarrians for Social Justice, Centre for Equality Rights in Accommodation, Homes for Women, Income Security Advocacy Centre, Sisters of St. Joseph in Canada, Social Rights Advocacy Centre, and the YWCA Canada.

Canada Without
Poverty

PC critic challenges Wynne

This week, Ernie Hardeman, Oxford MPP and PC Critic for Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, said that Kathleen Wynne, Premier and Minister of Agriculture and Food owes farmers an apology for choosing to campaign in a by-election instead of attending the last day of the annual federal-provincial-territorial Agriculture Ministers meeting.

"I am disappointed that Premier Wynne chose campaigning over staying to represent our farmers at the agriculture ministers' meeting," said Hardeman. "Leaving early sends a message to the federal government, other provinces and our farmers that Ontario isn't prepared to stand up for our agriculture industry."

On Friday July 19, while Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food Gerry Ritz and Agriculture Ministers from across the country were holding their last day of meetings in Halifax, Wynne was in Ottawa campaigning for the Liberal candidate in the Ottawa South by-election. "I don't think it is fair to

Ontario farmers and our agriculture industry to have an Agriculture Minister who doesn't have time to attend the full federal-provincial meeting, respond personally to agriculture media or travel to see agriculture problems first-hand," said Hardeman.

Hardeman wrote to Wynne on July 12 to express concern that she had not taken the time to see crop damage that resulted from significant flooding in many parts of Ontario and invited her to join him in his tour of damage in Chatham Kent. Wynne has not responded to the letter.

"Taking on the roles of Premier, Minister of Agriculture and Food and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs would make it difficult for anyone to do all of the jobs well," said Hardeman. "My concern is that it means Ontario farmers aren't getting the attention and representation that they deserve."

Ontario PC Party

Town needs to find quicker way to remove 'mung' from Waverly

Dear Editor,

As My wife and I live in the Waverly Beach area of our lovely town, the recent

beach mung issue is knocking at our door. Literally.

The second you walk out the door it hits you in the face, with the recent humidity and high heat

the smell has gotten worse.

In any other locale, close to the beach that I have encountered, the townships clean up this

disgusting filthy and rank deposit that our rivers and lakes produce.

If the town council can sporadically offer \$3 million to an out of town proj-

ect, why can't they find a way to expedite the removal of this mung.

Any house in Fort Erie remotely close to the beach pays higher property taxes,

so this smell is a nice addition to the tax increase.

Andrew Holdsworth
Fort Erie

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Waverly Beach on the afternoon of Mon. July 25.

KRIS DUBÉ Fort Erie Times

Algae buildup can't be removed without MNR approval

Kris Dubé
Editor

A build up of algae at Waverly Beach in Fort Erie isn't going anywhere until the Ministry of Natural Resources says it can be removed.

The Town of Fort Erie contacted the MNR recently about the noticeable presence of algae along the public beach's shore and when inspected, it became evident a species at risk is also present.

"When they came down, the Fowler's Toad in the area was quite active,"

said the municipality's chief administrative officer Larry Adams.

The popular amphibians are within the algae and also in the sand at the beach and the only way to remove them before cleaning the area up would be by hand, a task that would take far too long.

Adams said the MNR is in Fort Erie today conducting evaluations of all of Fort Erie's beaches, which may result in the Town being given an indication about when its retained contractor can be directed to begin removing the algae.



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Canadian Tire store allows dogs to shop with owners

Four-legged friends usually on their best behaviour

Kris Dubé
Editor

Being considered a valuable customer at Fort Erie's Canadian Tire isn't something that only applies to humans.

For over 10 years, its Garrison Rd. location has welcomed dogs into the store to prevent owners from having to leave their furry family members inside a hot car in the parking lot.

Signs are placed at the store's entrance and

“We got tired of seeing dogs left in cars, particularly in the summer.”

— Patti Mills-Roy

owner Patti-Mills Roy said with recent news stories about animals being left in vehicles getting a lot of attention, it is hoped the general public is aware that they welcome dogs into the store.

The Canadian Tire Corporation allows its locations across the chain to become dog-friendly and franchises decide on their own if they would like to participate.

Mills-Roy said offering this feature to customers' shopping experience was an easy decision.

"We got tired of seeing dogs left in cars, particularly in the summer," she said.

On a daily basis, many people take advantage of this offering and bring their canines into the store when shopping.

She said there have not been any incidents of dogs being disruptive or causing any problems, which she attributes to owners using proper discretion. She says it is evident that the only people who bring their dogs inside have used proper discretion and know that it won't cause any problems.

They're good dogs who are obedient and won't cause any problems when joining their master for a stop at the local retailer.

"We find that when people bring them into the store, they're always well-behaved," said Mills-Roy.

She also said that in some areas of the store, staff members are

equipped with treats for when they have any four-legged visitors.

Mills-Roy said this is an offer to customers that is very important to the staff at the local Canadian Tire.

"It's something we feel very strongly about."

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3 Ridley Square,
St. Catharines ON L2S 9P4
Phone - 905-397-0660
Fax - 905-397-0661



Fort Erie resident Myra Robertson with her Victorian bulldog Zuri at the Fort Erie Canadian Tire this week.

KRIS DUBÉ Fort Erie Times

Falls church will celebrate arrival of Royal baby

Matt Day
CMI Agency Niagara

The bells of Christ Church Anglican church will sound Sunday to help mark the birth of the royal baby.

Father Paul Maynard, pastor at the Zimmerman Ave. church, said a 35-minute celebration will include songs O Canada, God Save the Queen and, fittingly, Happy Birthday.

"It's sort of our way of announcing and celebrating the royal birth to our community," he said.

The world welcomed

Monday's birth of a baby boy to Prince William and Catherine, the Duchess of Cambridge. The infant is first in line to be King of Canada — behind his father and grandfather, Prince Charles.

Christ Church is home to Niagara Falls' only 10-bell system, which was originally installed in 1912.

The celebration is fitting, said Maynard, as Queen Elizabeth is the head of the Anglican church and Christ Church has a history with the royal family. The Royal baby,

who was taken home from hospital Tuesday by his proud parents, will also one day be head of the church. As William and Catherine left the hospital, the new father told reporters they were "still working on a name" for their son.

In 1951, Princess Elizabeth II — now Queen Elizabeth II — visited with Prince Philip. In 1991, Prince Charles and Princess Diana visited Niagara Falls with their children, Prince William and Prince Harry. Although a stop at the church was't on their itinerary, Maynard

said he felt like something should be done honouring the birth of William's first son.

"Bells are traditionally rung at major royal events," he said.

The Bells of Westminster Abbey and the bells at London's St. Paul's Cathedral rang out for hours Tuesday.

Niagara Falls Mayor Jim Diodati said he's ready to "roll out the red carpet" as soon as the royal family wants to make a return visit to Niagara Falls.

"I'm sure they wouldn't want to travel with the

baby too soon, but we'll keep sending out invitations," he said.

The last time Diodati extended an invitation was after Prince William married Kate Middleton in 2011.

"It all made sense why they declined, because she was pregnant," he said.

But as the walls of Buckingham Palace close in on the growing family, Diodati wants them to know they will get the royal treatment when they visit to visit.

"All we can do is kill them with kindness. I'm

hoping they see that we turned the falls blue in honour of their newborn boy," he said.

Sunday's bell-ringing ceremony begins at 9:15 a.m. and goes until 9:50 a.m. Anyone is welcome to come witness the ringing of the bells and Maynard said people are encouraged to bring lawn chairs to sit in outside.

"When you have this many bells we will have many changes and patterns. You'll hear some that were played in Tuesday's ringing in London," he said.

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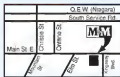
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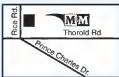
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Dreams to Memories



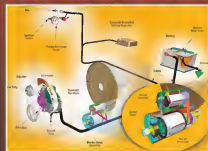
KRIS DUBÉ Fort Erie Times

Dreams to Memories board members Janis McCooley, left, Dennis Murray, Shari House, Karl Hammond, Margaret Smith, Mike Thibodeau and John Mowat at the non-profit group's annual golf tournament held at Bridgewater on Monday. Absent from photo are Mary Byrnes and Joyce Lea. Read the whole story on page 28.



SHIFT INTO

SUMMER



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Police investigating double shooting in St. Catharines

Two people taken to hospital with non-life threatening wounds

The story is still developing, but NRP spokesman Const. Rich Gadreau confirmed two people were taken to St. Catharines hospital just after 4 a.m. Tuesday with non-life-threatening gunshot wounds.

Niagara EMS also confirmed they responded to the scene and transported two patients to hospital. An ORANGE air ambulance was originally called in, but wasn't

required.

At about 6:30 a.m. Tuesday, the NRP's emergency task unit responded to a house on Kirk St. in west St. Catharines where they believed a suspect might be hiding.

The area around Pelham Rd. between Glendale Ave. and Rykert St. was blocked off and the police service's emergency command post was set up in the

parking lot of a former bank near David St.

ETU officers in full tactical gear were on scene in the area, including two officers wearing grass-covered sniper camouflage and carrying sniper rifles. At one point, police could be heard speaking through a megaphone.

By 9 a.m., however, Gadreau said nobody was found in the Kirk St. house and the ETU offi-

cers cleared the scene.

"I can confirm it was a double shooting and the investigation led us to a location on Kirk St.," said Gadreau.

"There was no suspect found at the location they were investigating, so right now the investigation is still ongoing."

The area around Bunting Rd. near Roehampton Ave., however, remained blocked off and surrounded with

police tape as of mid morning Tuesday.

Kassandra Cleury, who lives on Roehampton Ave., said she thinks she heard the gunshots.

"I was up around 4 a.m. feeding my daughter I heard a car driving up and I heard three popping sounds. It sounded like gunshots so I looked out the window, but I didn't see anything. Then I heard the car driving off," she said.

Dan Dakin
QMI Agency Niagara

Niagara Regional Police are investigating a double shooting overnight in St. Catharines.



SHIFT INTO SUMMER

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Preference will be given to persons who have experience as School Crossing Guards. Offers of employment are conditional upon the successful applicant providing the Town with a police background check. Successful applicants must also be available for and attend training. Interested applicants are invited to submit a resume, in confidence to;

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ALL APPLICATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY 4:00 P.M.,

FRIDAY AUGUST 9, 2013.

Persons who have in the past, submitted unsolicited applications/resumes are encouraged to re-apply to be considered. Only those candidates selected for an interview will be contacted. Personal information is collected under the *Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* and the *Municipal Act, 2001* as amended, for the purposes of employee recruitment.

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Final 2013 tax bills were mailed on June 26, 2013

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Finance Department, Municipal Centre,
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For information contact:

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REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL # FS-04-2013P REAL ESTATE SERVICES: SALE OF TOWN PROPERTIES

The Corporation of the Town of Fort Erie (the "Town") is the owner of two former Fire Stations (the "Properties") located at 119 Bertie Street (Fire Station 1) and 207 Jarvis Street (Fire Station 2), Fort Erie Ontario. The Town is seeking proposals from Real Estate Brokers to manage the marketing and listing for these Town-owned properties which are for sale.

Sealed proposal clearly marked as to contents will be received by Carolyn Kett, Town Clerk, Municipal Centre, 1 Municipal Centre Drive, Fort Erie, Ontario,
until 2:00 p.m. local time on:

August 7, 2013

Proposal documents may be obtained by contacting Bart Menage, Manager, Purchasing and Finance Services at bmenage@forterie.on.ca or (905) 871-1600 ext. 2303

The Corporation of the Town of Fort Erie reserves the right to reject any or all submission and the lowest or any proposal will not necessarily be accepted.

FINANCIAL SERVICES

'It's always the last person they think would do this'

From Page 5

He recalled sharing some advice with the owners of that business — advice he said that he'd like to share with retailers and businesspeople in general.

"Be cautious of who you trust. And even then, don't put 100% of your trust in one person, because that's how it always ends up happening," Stockill said.

"It's always the last person that

they think would do this to them. That's almost a verbatim phrase from complainants once they find out who it was that ripped them off."

He said a few "warning lights" to watch for are bookkeepers that don't take vacations, and are hesitant to have any one do their job or even assist them.

The bookkeeper, Stockill explained, could be concerned that if someone else were to take over their job — even temporarily — they would find out what's going on.



Fort Erie Communities-in-Bloom

Garden of the WEEK

This is the **King family** side of the berm located on **Lower Coach Road** in **Stevensville**. For more gorgeous pictures **"Like"** our facebook page, **Fort Erie Communities in Bloom**.

SOME TIPS TO EXTEND BLOOMS

Try a process known as **"DEADHEADING"**, which is the removal of mature flowers that are turning brown or losing their petals. Left to nature, most of these spent flowers will develop seeds. When they ripen, the plant starts to decline in preparation for dormancy and next season's growth. Deadheading interrupts this natural cycle, encouraging plants to continue to produce new buds, which prolongs the plant's blooming period—that means more flowers for your garden.

Deadheading techniques vary depending on the growth habit of each type of plant. The spent flowers of most perennials can be pruned back to a new bud or leaf axil, which appears lower down the stem. These include bellflowers, columbines, coneflowers, phlox and Shasta daisies. To deadhead, use a pair of sharp garden scissors or secateurs to snip off the stem of the dead flower about half a centimeter above the next flowerbud, if one had formed, or where the next pair of leaves joins the stem of the plant if there are no buds.

The blooms of other types of perennials, including coralbells, torch lilies, (Kniphofia hybrids) and thrift, grow at the top of long stems. These should be cut back right down to the base of the plant.

"Bloom Fort Erie, Bloom"

Fort Erie - 2012 National Communities-in-Bloom Winners



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KRIS DUBÉ Fort Erie Times
Niagara Regional Police and the Fort Erie Fire Department on scene of a rescue along the Niagara River on Thurs. July 18.

Distressed boaters confused about exact location

Kris Dubé
Editor

A group of distressed boaters who weren't quite sure of their exact location along the Niagara River caused some confusion for authorities trying to save them on Thursday evening.

Around 6:30 p.m., the Niagara Regional Police and Fort Erie Fire Department were called to the shore of the river near Townline Rd.

Fort Erie fire chief Larry Coplen

said the search lasted almost a half hour because the people on the vessel, who called 911 on a cell phone, didn't know whether they were near Squaw Island or Strawberry Island.

"They kept giving us spots further and further down the river," said Coplen.

With so many boaters out on the water because of the balmy weather, Coplen said it takes some extra time finding the disabled vessel the distressed phone call came from.

"There's lots of people out there and you have to check every boat," said Coplen.

Firehall holding annual summer bash

➤ Cash prizes available, draw to be held at 11 p.m.

The community is invited to celebrate the season with the Fort Erie Fire Department's station no. 6.

On Sat. July 27, the fire hall in Crystal Beach will hold its annual summer bash at 271 Ridgeway Rd. The ere will be food and entertainment with music from The Associates.

Tickets are available for cash prizes and can be bought at the door or from a local firefighter.

Draws will be held at 11 p.m.

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Former Fort Erie resident Dan General, middle, with his bandmates Bear Witness and Deejay NDN in A Tribe Called Red.

Submitted

Polaris short list has Fort Erie connection

DJ Shub and A Tribe Called Red make top ten artists up for \$30,000 prize

Kris Dubé
Editor

The short list for the Polaris Music Prize, an accolade that recognizes integrity in Canadian music, has a Niagara connection.

Dan General, who is also known as DJ Shub, is a member of the Ottawa-based electronic trio called A Tribe Called Red and they have made the list of top 10 artists who are being considered for the prize.

General grew up in Fort Erie and moved to Ottawa to form the group with two other artists.

inial DJs about three years ago. Before the finalists were narrowed down to 10, a 'long list' of 40 performers was announced. The winner will receive \$30,000 at a gala in September. The Polaris Prize is a not-for-profit organization that celebrates and rewards creativity and diversity in Canadian recorded music.

Polaris recognizes and markets albums of the highest artistic integrity, without regard to genre, professional affiliation or sales history, says the organization's mission statement.

It is adjudicated by selected music journalists, broadcasters and bloggers.

General said he and his group are delighted to be considered for this

prestigious nod.

I'm still getting over the fact we made the long list two years in a row," said General.

"Being in a group of the best 10 albums on Canada is unreal but couldn't have done it without the support of my family and friends."

The rest of the competition

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- 3) Metric- 'Synthetica'
- 4) METZ- 'METZ'
- 5) Purity Ring- 'Shrines More Light'
- 6) Colin Stetson- 'New History Warfare Vol. 3: To See More Light'
- 7) Tegan and Sara- 'Heartthrob'
- 8) A Tribe Called Red- 'Nation II Nation'
- 9) Whitehorse- 'The Fate of the World Depends on This Kiss'
- 10) Young Galaxies- 'Ultramarine'

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Submitted

Mike James, a singer-songwriter from Crystal Beach, recently signed a five-year record contract with Sunshine Records, a label based out of Winnipeg.



Songwriter sticks to his goals, earns record contract

Kris Dubé
Editor



I consider myself hard-working and very lucky."

— Mike James

A lot of hard work and luck is paying off for a singer-songwriter from Crystal Beach.

Mike Piccolo, who goes by the stage name Mike James, has recently inked a five-year contract with Sunshine Records, a music label based out of Winnipeg that has been putting out records since 1974.

Several Grammy-winning albums recorded by St. Catharines polka legend Walter Ostanek were released on this label.

James submitted some of his work to the label earlier this year and just a few weeks ago, he heard back from them, finding out he will be added to the label's catalogue of artists.

"They listened to it and said they'd take me on," he said.

Five years is more than enough time he said to produce a healthy amount of material, since James expects he should be able to write and record two albums per year.

"That's my 9 to 5, writing. It's what I do."

James has been playing music for over 40 years, mainly as a drummer

before he started focusing on an adult contemporary and folk style of play.

Receiving advice from a friend in the music industry, he was told that straying away from one particular genre of music is not the way to go. That's why he has remained true to the folk ballads he has recorded as a solo artist.

"Set a goal and stick with it, that's what I did."

He also said that good fortune and having connections certainly has helped along the way, over the last few years.

"I consider myself hard-working and very lucky."

James can be found playing locally in Greater Fort Erie, frequently at the Crystal Chandelier in Crystal Beach.

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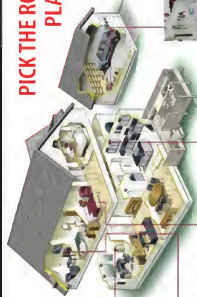
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Getting ready for the Prince of Wales stakes race

Kris Dubé
Editor

In less than two weeks, the Fort Erie Race Track's most prestigious event will be coming out of the gate.

The Prince of Wales stakes race, in its 78th year, will be held on a Twilight Tuesday card, instead of on a Sunday like it has for decades.

"We're going to have a good show," said Jim Thibert, chief executive officer of the Fort Erie Live Racing Consortium.

Earlier this year, Fort Erie trainer Nick Gonzalez and his horse Midnight Aria finished first in the Queen's Plate at Woodbine, the first jewel in the Canadian Triple Crown.

Gonzalez has decided not to enter his recent winner in the Prince of

Wales stakes race, as a precaution for the horse's welfare.

"That means there will be no triple crown winner this year," said Thibert.

Although some racing fans had concerns with scheduling the famous race in Fort Erie on a Tuesday, going against the grain and offering it on a day other than Sunday, Thibert said most people he has spoken with are in favour of the change.

Twilight Tuesdays have been the most successful day of the week for the Fort Erie Race Track this season. On July 16, a total of \$757,644 was wagered on racing in Fort Erie from bettors on site and from other parts of the world.

"This is our highest-grossing Twilight Tuesday to date," said Thibert.

Since Tuesdays are generating so much interest, Thibert said it seemed

suitable to move the day of the week that the stakes race is held.

"We want to keep our resources focused on what meets the goals of the modern racing platform," said Thibert referring to steps made in customer service and the overall delivery of the horse-racing product.

He said if Gonzalez didn't decide to sit out from the upcoming stakes race, there would be some extra enthusiasm in the air that could potentially result in more wagering and attendance. But he understands Gonzalez's decision and agrees it was the right one to make.

"You have to do what's right for the animals. In the end, the horse has to prevail," said Thibert.

The post position draw for the Prince of Wales stakes race will be held July 27.



File photo

Jockey Patrick Husbands rides Dixie Strike into the winner's circle after last year's Prince of Wales stakes race at the Fort Erie Race Track.



File photo

The photo finish of last year's Prince of Wales stakes race at the Fort Erie Race Track.

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Making dreams come true

Kris Dubé
Editor

The 11th annual golf tournament that benefits Dreams to Memories was held at Bridgewater Country Club on Monday.

Dreams to Memories is a non-profit, charitable foundation serving the residents of Ontario, based out of Fort Erie. The organization assists terminally ill parents with children under the age of 15 years of age who live in the same home, with an opportunity to have a last wish experience.

The golf tournament is the group's biggest annual fundraiser and publicist Jacquie Napper said although it is not set in stone, a goal of \$14,000 is aimed for.

"We were close last year, but things are looking pretty good this year," she said.



**We really want to support
more local families."**

— Jacquie Napper

She said one wish never has the same price tag because they assist families of different sizes in varying situations and predicaments.

"The more money we have, the more we can do."

Dreams to Memories will be holding a motorcycle run and BBQ in Niagara-on-the-Lake next month and its annual tree dedication at Sugarbowl Park, among a few other events.

"We've added a lot of fundraisers this past year," said Napper.

Most families are referred to the organization from cancer clinics, said Napper.

She also said the organization has a reserve of bingo funds that can only be spent on providing a wish for parents and children in Fort Erie.

"We really want to support more local families," said Napper.

For more information, visit www.dreams2memories.org.

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'We're all in' for south Niagara hospital: Martin

➤ Niagara Falls mayor says Fort Erie is sending a strong message

Matt Day
QMI Agency Niagara

Fort Erie is showing the province the money and Niagara Falls Mayor Jim Diodati says he is happy to see the town's council showing leadership.

"I'm thrilled to see it," said Diodati. "They are sending a strong message to the minister of health,

to Premier Kathleen Wynne and other municipalities in the region that the community is ready to better ... plans for implement health care in Niagara south."

At Monday's meeting, Fort Erie council unanimously voted in favour of setting aside \$3 million during an extended period of time, which could last up to 25 years.

The town is the first municipality in the region to make a financial commitment to a south Niagara hospital and

Diodati said Niagara Falls staff is also working on securing a multi-million dollar assurance.

"I anticipate we will be dealing with a report by city staff at our September meeting," he said. "Niagara Falls has a greater population, so obviously (our commitment) is going to be a greater amount, but those numbers will come out when we get a report."

The \$3 million in funding from Fort Erie will most likely come through property assessment

taxes, said Fort Erie Mayor Doug Martin. He said the terms of the payment arrangements will be the subject of budget deliberations in 2014.

Putting that amount into context, Martin said a \$3 million commitment during 30 years would equal around a 0.5% increase to taxpayers every year.

The provincial government hasn't given the green light to a south Niagara hospital just yet. Health Minister Deb Matthews has said there

are "many steps" before the government can make a decision on a new hospital.

"They said show us the plan, show us the land and show us the money. That was the process we've got to go through," Martin said Tuesday. "Well, we're all in."

Thorold, Niagara-on-the-Lake and St. Catharines all pay a per capita-based percentage for the \$1-billion hospital in St. Catharines.

Martin said Fort Erie's early pledge will hopefully

get the ball rolling with other municipalities stepping up to the plate.

"It's time to start putting aside money now so when the time comes we are prepared to make that financial commitment and we're ready to go," Martin said.

The location proposed to the Ontario government by the Niagara Health System's provincially-appointed supervisor Kevin Smith is 12 hectares of property at the northwest corner of Montrose and Lyons Creek Rds.

Pregnant cat repeatedly shot with crossbow in Thorold South

Jeff Blay
QMI Agency Niagara

An unborn Siamese kitten saved the life of its mother after being impaled by an arrow shot at the cat Tuesday in Thorold South.

The Lincoln County Humane Society is investigating the animal cruelty case after the pregnant cat, which the organization has named Cinnamon, was shot at least four times with a crossbow, causing it to lose its litter of kittens.

LCHS staff responded to a call for a cat in distress Tuesday night, and found the feline with the plastic portion of a dart sticking out of her abdomen.

She was rushed to the St. Catharines Animal Hospital and underwent surgery.

"It was a large cat obviously when it came in and they had to X-ray it because one arrow was still protruding from the cat's abdomen," said Kevin Strooband, executive director of the LCHS.

X-rays indicated the cat was carrying at least six kittens, which had to be aborted during surgery. It was also found that one of the kittens was impaled by the arrow, which ultimately saved the life of the mother.

"This saved the cat's life because it stuck in the uterus, so if the cat wasn't preg-

nant, the arrow would have likely hit the kidney or one of its major organs," said Dr. Bassen Bactor, the veterinarian who performed the surgery. "It had four major, deep injuries."

Bactor said when the cat arrived at his hospital, there were three darts stuck in it, while a fourth dart was brought in loose.

"We had to sedate the cat to get them out," he said. "I've never seen something like this - it was very traumatic."

Surgery was successful and the cat is now recovering at the humane society in St. Catharines.

"She's alert and responsive and doing well right now," said Bactor. "She's a strong cat."

Bactor said the only worry now is that, if the arrows had any rust or contamination on them, it could lead to an infection.

Only time will tell.

"If she can make it through to the end of the week and into next week, she will pull through," he said.

Strooband said staff at the LCHS will be keeping a close eye on the cat's progress.

"We're going to give this cat a high level of care and observation to rehabilitate it," he said.

With the investigation still in the early stages, the LCHS

is appealing to the public for information in a case it calls "heuristic."

"We've dealt with cats that have been shot with arrows before, but we've never had a cat that was pregnant where the belly was shot, so we're investigating it as a criminal offence of cruelty to animals," said Strooband. "This cat suffered immensely by someone's sick decision to target this defenseless animal."

Cruelty to animals convictions carry a fine of up to \$60,000 and up to two years in jail. A lifetime ban on owning pets may also be imposed.

"This is a serious crime," Strooband said, adding it's still too early in the investigation to speculate how it happened. "This was not accidental."

"If it's so easy to do this to an animal, you can do it to anybody, and that's concerning."

Strooband said the investigation is ongoing and officials are still looking to find the own-

ers of the cat as well as any potential leads.

"We don't know who the owner of the cat is at this point, so we're not only looking to the public for help on determining who did it, but also, we're trying

to find the owner," he said. "If we can't, then we will place it up for adoption once it can be adopted. We may put it into foster care in the interim."

In animal cruelty cases, humane societies are the

lead investigating agencies, but may work with police if needed.

Anyone with information about the incident is asked to call the Lincoln County Humane Society at 905-682-0767.

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Members of Fenian Raid Frank Devereaux, left, Angus Butler, Jason Cline and Kevin Cronin.

Ridgeway band nominated for Niagara Music Awards

Kris Dubé
Editor

Fenian Raid does it for the love of the music, not to become famous rock stars who tour all over the planet making a ton of money.

The Ridgeway-based band is nominated for three Niagara Music Awards this year and bass player Kevin Cronin said he and the rest of the group are thrilled to have been recognized.

"We're honoured and very excited about it," said Cronin.

The band describes their sound as being infused with east coast Celtic inspiration with a modern rock element.

They are nominated in the world music, best original song and album of the year categories.

The name of their recent album is 'Acoustic Shadows'.

Cronin said the three nominations give the band's members a sense of validation, evidence music fans in the region are into their style.

"It's nice people recognize the effort we've put in. We've put so much work into this project," he said.

The NMA's are in its sixth year of acknowledging artists of all genres and Cronin said it's something that is definitely appreciated by members of the area's music scene.

"There's a lot of talent in the area," said Cronin.

Currently, Fenian Raid is not signed to a record label and have released their material independently.

They've had conversations about finding a record company that could support them, but considering the band's members all have families and careers outside of playing music, it wouldn't seem right to constantly tour and uproot their everyday lives. Basically, they are comfortable with the way things are at the moment.

"It would be a huge transition," said Cronin.

Working on their own, without a label breathing down their necks, is the way

they would like to keep it.

"That way you can do what you want to, when you want to do it," said Cronin.

Their name is derived from a historic event that took place during the Battle of Ridgeway in 1866. The NMAs will be handed out at a ceremony in Niagara Falls in August.

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Philip D. Screen
Funeral Director
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Q: Can computers handle the heat?

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All aboard!**KRIS DUBÉ** Fort Erie Times

Nicholas Detenbeck, left his mother Claudia Tarzwell and sister Melina Tarzoll stopped by the Fort Erie Public Library's cantorial branch last week to enjoy the air conditioning during the heat wave. The FEPL's branches were designated as cooling stations during the warm weather.

Opening doors**KRIS DUBÉ** Fort Erie Times

A recent pasta dinner at the Italo-Canadian Club raised over \$1,000 for Community Living Fort Erie and bought a new sliding door at its group home on Catherine St. Seen here is Robert Flood, who lives at the home, executive director Maureen Brown, Greg Pithouse and president of the Italo-Canadian Club Vince Cattonne.

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Calgary Zoo animals find new home in Stevensville

Matt Day
QMI Agency Niagara

Safari Niagara will be welcoming some unex-

pected guests this summer.

Following June's devastating floods in Calgary, the Alberta city's zoo put out a call to register

members of Canadian Association of Zoos and Aquariums — a nonprofit organization promoting the welfare of animals — to help temporarily relo-

cate 34 animals while the grounds are repaired.

The Stevensville-based zoo answered quickly and said Monday they will be receiving five Goeldi's monkeys, four Amazon parrots and two white-handed gibbons, one named Tunku who has lived at the Calgary Zoo for a few decades.

"We decided we could house the extra animals with our collection," said Tim Tykollis, Safari Niagara's general manager. "We're pretty good as far as enclosures go so we reached out for what we

could take on without having to create new environments."

Safari Niagara is one of a handful of facilities across Canada helping out the Calgary Zoo.

Tykollis said he wasn't sure when the animals would be arriving, but that they were being shipped by air through WestJet, Cargojet and Fed-Ex.

"When we do receive them they will go into quarantine under veterinary supervision for 30 days and then they will be on display after that," he said.

The animals are being sent to Safari Niagara unharmed, Tykollis said.

Dr. Clément Lanthier, Calgary Zoo president and CEO, said all of the animals needing new homes were spoken for within two days.

"It's good not only for our park," said Tykollis, "but for helping out a fellow association member in need. This is for the benefit of the animals."

He said Safari Niagara already has gibbons and parrots, but that the monkeys will be a new attraction.



Submitted

Five Goeldi monkeys have joined the family at Safari Niagara.

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Colin James coming to Stevensville

Safari Niagara wants you to feel the blues next week when Juno Award winners come to the Stevensville zoo.

Colin James, Steve Strongman and David Gogo will be lighting up the amphitheatre stage.

James, a six-time Juno award winner, has topped the charts as a pop vocalist, recorded an acclaimed blues album and

led the swing revival with his Little Big Band.

Strongman has a Juno award for Blues Album of the Year and has played at festivals like the Barrie Jazz and Blues Festival and Mont Tremblant International Blues Festival.

Gogo has four Juno nominations under his belt and a Western Canadian Music Award for Blues Recording of

the Year. He's also been named Maple Blues Guitarist of the Year.

Tickets are still available by calling 1-866-943-8849 or by visiting www.safarinianagara.com.

The summer concert series concludes with rockers The Sheepdogs and 54-40 on Aug. 9 and Canadian legends Great Big Sea on Aug. 24.

A birthday fit for a king

Marlene Bergsma
OMI Agency Niagara

Nikole Bannister and Pat Edwards aren't surprised their newborn son shares a birthday with a future king.

It's something they expected all along.

Nolan Patrick Edwards, weighing seven pounds nine ounces, was born at 8:20 a.m. Monday at the St. Catharines hospital. The future king of England was born a few hours later on July 22, weighing eight pounds six ounces.

"We were joking all along that this was going to happen," said Bannister, Nolan's mom.

From the announcement of the pregnancy to the severe morning sickness suffered by both her and Kate, Duchess of Cambridge, their nine-month journeys matched "pretty much day for day," said Pat Edwards.

At West Lincoln Memorial Hospital in Grimsby, Isaac Warden, born at 4:58 a.m. on Monday, also shares a birthday with the as-yet unnamed royal baby, who is third in line to the throne.

Isaac's mother Rebecca Warden said her mother, Valerie Klassen, predicted the newborn match-up.

"It's pretty neat," said Warden, who already has a three-year-old son, Andrew. "My mom has always followed the Royal Family because she really liked Princess Diana and always appreciated what she did with her life."

Klassen said she was married the same year Lady Diana married Charles, Prince of Wales, and her daughter, Rebecca, was born June 22, one day after Prince William.

"I always feel like there is a connection."

Warden said she will certainly tell Isaac, whose "name means laughter," that he shares a birthday with a future king, and expects her mother will be happy to fill them in on the royal details.

Meanwhile, first-time

father Pat Edwards said his son is already being "treated like a prince" by doting grandparents. Just like the new prince, Nolan is the first grandchild for both the Bannister and Edwards families. And he arrived on the birthday of his great-grandmother, Christine Newport, who is of Scottish descent.

Bannister said she is

pleased to have a royal connection, and wanted to "wish the royal baby congratulations as well."

Pat Edwards said becoming a father "is surreal and amazing. It's the best thing that has happened to me so far."

"I feel like a king," he said.

But he wisely knows the real reason for his good fortune.



Nikole Bannister and Pat Edwards with their son Nolan Edwards who was born at the St. Catharines hospital on the same day as the royal baby was born.



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Bouquet to penny drive contributors

Bouquet to everyone who continues to support COPE and other local causes. Thanks to everyone who has been supporting the food bank on Dufferin Street's penny and coin drive. The goal is to reach \$10,000 by July 31 and we need the support to keep coming in to get there!

Bouquet to council's action

This is a bouquet to our local council for showing leadership by getting the ball rolling with \$3 million funding for a new hospital in the south of Niagara. Some critics have said it was a poor decision because the site has not been approved by the provincial government but perhaps this will be a start, evidence that people in this area are tired of waiting for the Ontario Liberals to do a much better job of addressing health care in Niagara.

Brick to beer garden

I assume I should be sending this brick to some young party animals in my neighbourhood who decided it would be funny to throw empty beer cans

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and bottles in my tomato garden. At least I know my tomatoes will probably grow faster than they ever will.

Bouquet to Elvis performance

Last Saturday, my wife and I were enjoying a nice stroll through the neighbourhood and heard live music coming from a few streets over so we decided to check it out. It was a man singing Elvis Presley songs in his backyard. We watched a couple numbers before heading home. It was a very nice addition to the weekend.

Brick to cigarette butts

I know smokers have it rough, sometimes judged and looked at like they are a lower class. But they sure do act like that's the case when they leave a trail of butts everywhere they go. On the beach golf course is a perfect example. You're outdoors, so that means you'll probably be lighting up more often. Why don't you carry a can? People who don't smoke will appreciate it.

Bouquet to cool down

Last week's heat wave was OK, it really doesn't bother me. But what we are enjoying this week is a little more comfortable. I don't feel like I live in a sauna.

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GOLDWELL

Truck crushed by counterweight in St. Catharines

Jeff Bolichowski
QMI Agency Niagara

Ernie Duff leapt for his life just seconds ahead of the massive concrete block

that was coming down from above.

Duff, a retired former St. Catharines resident now living in Florida, and his wife fled their new pickup

truck Monday mere heartbeats before the counterweight of the Lock 1 bridge over the Welland Canal came down.

The pair made it out

alive, leaving the massive block to crush the truck nearly flat.

"At the last minute my wife and I bailed out. Ten seconds later, the car was

crushed," Duff said.

"I'm just thankful we got out of the truck."

The 3 p.m. incident at Lakeshore Rd. and the Welland Canals Parkway

saw the bridge shut down for a time as police, firefighters and the St. Lawrence Seaway Management Corp. removed the Duffs' truck from beneath the weight.

Niagara Regional Police Staff Sgt. Tim Carter said the driver has been charged with running a red light.

"He basically drove up to the bridge and saw the cars on the other side," said Carter, who said he reviewed video from the scene. He said the traffic arms came down as Duff tried to get away.

"He sat there for quite some time," he said, before he and his wife bailed out.

Carter figured the truck was a write-off.

A crowd gathered around the lock as the truck — squashed down to the tops of their doors — was extracted from under the huge concrete counterweight.

Duff said there would not even have been room to lie on the seats had they remained inside.

Seaway maintenance manager Joe Vlasic said officials are digging into how the truck got under the weight.

"A vehicle got within our restricted area. Thankfully, the occupants evacuated the vehicle in enough time," he said.

"We used to investigate what happened, exactly. It's ongoing."

Vlasic said the Seaway implements preventative systems to keep crossings safe.

Duff said he stopped when he saw the red light on the other side of the bridge and the line of cars waiting there. He said he tried to back up, only to find the traffic arms pinning him in.

A former Port Dalhousie resident, Duff said he's driven over the bridge many times in the past.

"They've got to be able to stop that thing," he said.



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DRY SKIN

At this time of year patients are starting to complain about dry skin. Dry skin management often involves some trial and error of different products, but there are some general rules everyone can follow to help manage symptoms.

Dry skin occurs when oils in the skin are lost and water that is normally in the skin is able to escape. When bathing or showering it is important to use lukewarm water as opposed to hot water. Hot water can cause more oil to be lost from the skin and cause itching and dryness. Soap should be used only for groin, underarms, and feet. Other moisturizing body washes can be used for the rest of the body. After showering or bathing apply a moisturizer to help retain some of the moisture from the shower.

There are many different types of moisturizers. Depending on the ingredients they have separate functions. Some ingredients can hydrate and soften the skin. Others provide a barrier to prevent water loss, and others help to draw water to the top layer of the skin. Depending on what combination of ingredients are used there are four classes of moisturizers. There are ointments, oils, creams, and lotions.

Examples of ointment moisturizers include Aquaphor, and Vaseline. These moisturizers can be greasy and only a small amount is needed. They would be useful for someone with very dry hands. They are applied at night under cotton gloves.

An example of an oil moisturizer would be baby oil. Again, only a small amount is needed. It is not a good idea to add these to the bath because they can make the tub very slippery. As well they can cause yeast infections when added to bath water.

An example of a cream moisturizer would be Cetaphil moisturizing cream. Cream moisturizers are generally less greasy, and very gentle for sensitive skin. Cetaphil specializes in products that won't cause acne and are safe for people with allergies.

Lotions are the least greasy; however, they sometimes contain alcohol and can be drying. An example would be Nivea body lotion. Read the label on the back of the lotion. You may want to avoid those that contain alcohol.

In general, most moisturizers need to be applied several times throughout the day. Our cold dry climate leads to many complaints about dry skin. Luckily, there are many products on the market that can help even the worst sufferers. If you are not sure about what is right for you, you may need to ask for some professional advice.

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BOB TYMCZYSHYN QMI Agency Niagara

The owner of a pickup truck and his wife escaped injury after they got caught on the Lock 1 Bridge of the Welland Canal on July 22.

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Royal birth has very little impact on Niagara

Matt Day
QMI Agency Niagara

While the world awaits a name for the royal baby, one thing is for certain — it will be a name fit for a king.

And to honour the birth of the future king of Canada, the Niagara Parks Commission and the Niagara Falls Illumination Board will be lighting up the falls in blue for the next two nights.

"We thought this was a special way to commemorate the birth of our future king and congratulate the royal couple on the arrival of their first child," said parks chairwoman Janice Thomson.

The birth of the newest member of the royal family sparked conversation around the world.

The Duchess of

Cambridge, Kate Middleton, gave birth to a boy at 2:24 p.m. eastern time.

However, the news wasn't as monumental to some in Niagara.

"I don't care about the royal baby at all," said Patrick Smith in Niagara Falls Monday afternoon. "It's their world, it's not ours. I don't understand why people are so interested in it."

"I've noticed it on the headlines, but I don't have a high interest in it," said Sal Matolo of Niagara Falls. "It doesn't mean I'm anti-royalist or anything, though."

St. Catharines' Jane Perz said she knew Middleton went into labour Monday morning.

"Truthfully, other than a little bit of chit chat it doesn't affect my life," she

said. "It's good trivia knowledge, but other than that..."

With many references to the monarchy in Niagara — Queen Elizabeth Highway, Fort George in Niagara-on-the-Lake and Prince Charles Dr. in Welland — Perz said it's too early to name a landmark here after the newest member of the royal family.

"Let's see what he does with his life then we can see if he should have anything named after him," she said.

Tracey Shannon said she would have to know the name of the baby first before deciding if he should be a namesake for anything.

"I also thought it was going to be a girl," she said. "Apparently (Kate) almost made a comment earlier so

I just assumed. I guess we'll just have to wait and see." Shannon said she thinks

it's great the baby is a boy. Jennifer Conte was also happy to hear the news.

"He's the heir to the throne, so that's cool," said Conte.



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Fender-bender victims being steered to police station in Welland

Allan Benner
QMI Agency Niagara

A new service in the city is intended to make it easier and safer for motorists to report fender-benders.

Niagara Regional Police Chief Jeff McGuire was at the Welland police station Monday to officially open the region's first collision reporting centre.

The reporting centre gives motorists involved in a minor collision the option of bringing their damaged vehicle to the police station on Lincoln St., rather than waiting for police to come to them.

"First of all, from a citizen's point of view, it's a much safer way for minor accidents to be reported in many instances. ... We've probably all been there at some point in our lives, waiting for the police to come and take a report," McGuire said.

He said the new service, operated by Accident Support Services International Ltd. in a kiosk set up in the foyer at the police station, also enhances road safety because motorists will no longer be standing at the roadside while traffic speeds by as they wait for an available police officer.

The service is available for motorists involved in collisions without physical injuries or potential criminal charges. Motorists have up to 24 hours to report the collision at the centre, and vehicles that can't be driven can be towed there. Photographs and information about the collision and damaged vehicle are then recorded and sent to insurance companies and police. Motorists can instead request a police officer, and

opt out of using the free service funded by insurance companies.

McGuire said the service will allow the NRP to make better use of its resources. "From my perspective, (responding to minor collisions) also ties up our police officers when we can free them up to spend their time properly deployed doing things of higher priority," he added.

The collision reporting centre is being run as a yearlong pilot project, but McGuire hopes the facility's usage in the months ahead will warrant adding more of them in other parts of Niagara.

Regional Chair Gary Burroughs called the project "the way of the future," adding it will enhance police services while making collision reporting more convenient for residents.

Henry D'Angela, chair of the police services board, called the project "an excellent example of a partnership of many working together for a common goal," adding Welland was selected because of its central location.

Bob Guevin, vice-president of Accident Support Services, said the new collision reporting centre is the 25th location run by his company.

He said reporting centres established in other communities have demonstrated their effectiveness.

Guevin said the first local fender-bender victim used the service before its official opening Monday morning.

"His comment was 'Great stuff.' He was a cab driver so that extra few hours that he saved here today might have meant a few more fares," he added.

ALLAN BENNER QMI Agency Niagara

Pelham resident Andrea Dallas sits at her desk at the new collision reporting centre she manages. The pilot project allows motorists involved in minor collisions to bring their vehicles to the police station in Welland to report collisions, rather than wait for the police to come to them.



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KRIS DUBÉ Fort Erie Times
Gord McNeill with his grandchildren Austin and Nash, all wearing their own Elvis Presley costumes.



KRIS DUBÉ Fort Erie Times
Nash Johnson might have been the youngest Elvis Presley fan at his grandfather's backyard concert last Saturday.

Elvis Presley impersonator headed to Collingwood festival

Kris Dubé
Editor

The spirit of Elvis Presley could be heard bellowing through Crescent Park last Saturday night.

It was the annual backyard warm-up performance for Gord McNeill, a Fort Erie resident who competes in the Collingwood Elvis Festival, a spectacle that is one of the largest of its kind in North America.

Thousands of impersonators flock to the small town with a population of around 20,000 and pay tribute to the man proclaimed as the King of Rock n' Roll.

The festival takes place this weekend, therefore last Saturday was an opportunity for McNeill, who has three children and two grandchildren, to perform a collection of Elvis hits to over 100 fans in his backyard.

"It allows me to enter the

competition with a lot more confidence," said McNeill, who sported his new authentic Elvis tribute suit for the first time during the performance.

Between 20 and 30 friends and family members will be making the trip with him and his wife Lynn to the festival, where he competes in the non-professional category of the concert years division.

There is also professional and non-professional com-

petitions for impersonators who focus on the early years of Elvis's career, around the era he was criticized for swaying his hips on the Ed Sullivan Show.

McNeill only has the concert at his home and the occasional birthday party he agrees to as his training regiment during the year leading up to Collingwood, unlike some of the people who participate in the non-professional category.

He says some of them

depend on their hobby as up to 60 per cent of their income.

Above that, performers are required to move up to the professional category.

He said the biggest highlight of his three years competing in the Elvis-themed festival was singing "Wonder of You" to his wife in front of 30,000 people during the street dance portion of the weekend.

This year he plans to sing 'Are You Lonesome

Tonight?"

McNeill said he has "messed around with a guitar" most of his life and always enjoyed singing, but never started taking it seriously until three years ago.

He feels like he's just getting started.

"As long as I am still capable and can still sing, I'm going to keep doing it because it's a lot of fun."

McNeill is 57-years-old and is a foreman at E.S. Fox.

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Fort Erie Cannon Adam Fowler rounds third base during recent action at Oakes Park.

KRIS DUBÉ Fort Erie Times

Cannons on a nice little streak

The Fort Erie Cannons are on a three-game win streak after defeating a tough Thorold Mariners squad 5-3 at home last Wednesday and in St. Catharines Sunday against the Cobras they came home with a hard fought 5-4 road win.

Against the Mariners, starter Cam Hall went the distance for the win striking out 10 batters, while second baseman Kris Hodges made several outstanding plays to help gain the win. Lucas Cummings had the game winning double. In St. Catharines, Pat "Meatball" Giampaolo had the knuckle ball dancing as he gave up only one earned run in seven innings for the victory.

Mike Dimarcantonio went four-for-four at the plate, scored two runs and played a solid game at short stop for the short staffed Cannons. Next home game Wednesday July 31 against the Thorold Fantoms.

The standings in Niagara District Senior Men's League as of July 22 were as follows:

Rose City 14-1
Welland Chiefs 13-5
Niagara Falls 12-4
Fort Erie 11-6
Merrilton 10-8
Welland Pirates 6-11
St. Catharines 4-12
Mariners 2-12
Fantoms 2-16



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JULY 28

Speaker: Dr. Kevin Leman

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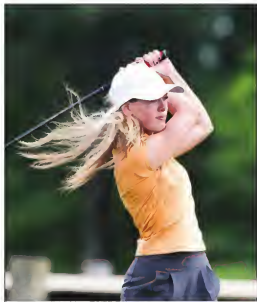
Worship Leaders: Brett Larson, Keri Cardinale, Tommy Hill



Brett, Keri and Tommy form a talented trio that have been leading worship together for years. Brett is the General Manager of WDCX Radio. Keri is the Program

Director of WDCX and Tom is President of the Coatings Alliance (C2 Paints).

Niagara Junior Golf Tour in full swing



Lucia Leone of Beechwood Golf and Country Club watches her drive at the Niagara Junior Golf Tour event at Sparrow Lakes Golf Club in Welland Monday.

Fort Erie golfer wins junior girls event

Bernie Puchalski
QMI Agency Niagara

It didn't take long for Zach-Soccio Marandola to erase the sting of missing the cut at last week's Ontario junior boys golf championship at the Ambassador Golf Club in Windsor.

The 18-year-old St. Catharines Golf and Country Club member carded a 34-37-71 at Sparrow Lakes Monday to tie the Willo-Dell's Jaret Chipman (36-35-71) after regulation play in a Niagara Junior Golf Tour event. The Thorold native and nephew of Olympic hockey player Len Soccio won on the first playoff hole with a birdie on the par three 18th hole.

"It was nice to get the win back here, but it (Ontario junior) was disappointing," the Denis Morris High School graduate said. "It's not that I played terrible golf, but I never really got it rolling."

He had a bad hole in his first round and never recovered.

Soccio-Marandola now has two wins in four events this year on the local tour and three titles in his career. "My goal is to obviously win this tour," he said.

He also has Beechwood's club championships next week as he gears up for his second year of NCAA Division I scholarship golf at Canisius. In his freshman season at Canisius, he played in three events with his best showing a 79-82-161 at the Cornell Invitational.

"It's different and you have to balance a lot with golf, school and your social life," he said. "It's a lot, but you learn and it makes you a better person all around. And it definitely improved my game."

He's hoping for a much better sophomore year at Canisius.

"I want to play in as many events as I can — hopefully I will play in all 10 — and hopefully our team does well."

Completing the top 10 Monday were: Peninsula Lakes' Mitchell Van Hoffen (37-36-73), Matthew Wood (39-36-75) and Andrew Maniccia (36-39-75); Willo-Dell's Ryan Gizzie (36-40-76); Beechwood's Peter Leone (37-40-77); St. Catharines' Spencer Mason (38-39-77); Rolling Meadows' Ryan Smith (41-37-78); St. Catharines' Mitch MacLean (40-38-78); and Rockway

Glen's Mac Fast (37-41-78).

JUNIOR GIRLS DIVISION

Bridgewater's Madeline Mack-Sherk is one step closer to her goal following her Niagara Junior Golf Tour victory at Sparrow Lakes.

"I would like to win the overall title," said last year's runner-up.

The 15-year-old Grade 11 student at Ridgeway-Crystal Beach fired an impressive 36-38-74 score to win by five shots. It was her second tour win of the year and eighth of her career.

"Everything seemed to be going well," she said. "I was making a lot of four-foot putts and I was staying in the fairway and out of trouble."

To combat potential problems, she avoided using her driver too much.

She knows what she needs to do if she wants to be the overall points champion.

"It's playing smart and not giving up if I have a bad hole," she said.

It's a problem she hasn't faced too much.

Earlier this summer, Mack-Sherk tied for 31st at the Ontario junior girls championship.

"I didn't played as well as I wished I had but I made the cut and I reached my goal," she said.

Rounding out the top five Monday were: Peninsula Lakes' Alexandra Taylor (42-37-79); Eagle Valley's Sukriti Harajal (43-41-84); and Beechwood's Lucia Leone (46-42-88) and Susan Leone (48-48-96).

BANTAM BOYS DIVISION

Vince Fryia's introduction to golf came at age three when he batted a plastic set of golf clubs around the backyard.

He started golfing at real courses when he played Eagle Valley when he was seven.

"I think I was naturally good, but I've gotten better as time has gone on," the 14-year-old Niagara Falls native said. "I've been inconsistent, but I've always been able to shoot good scores."

The five handicapper at the St. Catharines Golf and Country Club won twice in the bantam division of the Niagara Junior Tour in 2012 and won his first title of 2013 with a victory Monday at Sparrow Lakes. His 40-34 total gave him a two-shot victory and comes on the heels of three top-five finishes already this season.

"I was hitting my iron really well and I was getting them a lot closer to the green than I usually do," he said. "And I was keeping it in the fairway."

His score Monday was three shots off his career best score of 71 at Beechwood.

Vince is hoping his game continues to improve.

"I hope that it will pay for my university," he said.

Rounding out the top five in the bantam boys division were Twenty Valley's Jason Maloney (40-36-76); St. Catharines' Jack Allan (36-42-78); Peninsula Lakes' Ethan Siebert (39-42-81); and St. Catharines' Ben Simmonds (37-44-81).

NIAGARA JUNIOR TOUR

Stop: Sparrow Lakes.

Junior girls winner: Madeline Mack-Sherk, Bridgewater 36-38-74.

Junior boys winner: Zach Soccio-Marandola, St. Catharines G&CC 34-37-71 (won in playoff).

Bantam boys winner: Vince Fryia, St. Catharines G&CC 40-34-74.

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Graduations



Jessica Singleton

Shawn & Becky Singleton are very happy to announce the graduation of their daughter Jessica from Nipissing University. Jessica has worked very hard and has successfully earned her Bachelor of Arts Honors degree in Psychology and her Bachelor of Education with a minor in English. Your family is very proud of your outstanding achievements. We wish you great success in all of your future endeavors. We love you.



CAMERON, Helen E. (nee Foley) - Helen passed away at the Douglas Memorial Hospital on Saturday July 20th 2013 at the age of 88. Predeceased by her beloved husband Doug (1988). Sadly missed by her sister Bernadette M. Jacob her beloved niece Linda C. Nier (nee Jacob) her other nieces, nephews extended family and friends. Predeceased by her sisters Evelyn Laroue, Virginia M. Foley and her brother Clifford J. Foley. Born and raised in the Riverside section of Buffalo, she graduated from All Saints School and Riverside High School. She worked as a bookkeeper at Horton Coffee in Buffalo and in later years at Market Electric in Fort Erie. A longtime parishioner of St. Michael's Roman Catholic Church in Fort Erie where she sang for many years in the choir and was a member of the CWVL. In later years she became an accomplished knitter making many charitable items for babies, small children and their mothers. **BENNER FUNERAL SERVICES**, 1105 Benner Ave. Fort Erie entrusted with arrangements. Friends may call at the Funeral Home on Tuesday evening from 6-8 pm. Funeral Mass will be celebrated at St. Michael's Roman Catholic Church 310 Central Ave. on Wednesday morning at 11 o'clock. Interment to follow in Greenwood Cemetery. If so desired, donations to Community Outreach Program Erie (COPE) would be appreciated by the family.

HAWRANEK, Helena - Passed away peacefully at the Welland Hospital surrounded by her family on July 20th, 2013 at the age of 94. Beloved wife of the late Walterian "Frank" Loving mother of Irena (Paul) Priggen, Jolanta Hawranek, Ninka (Michael Kazmierczak) Hawranek and Danuta (Tony) Zanatta. Cherished grandmother of Tezina, Alexander, Teanna, Zara and Matthew. Helena was born in Blesko Poland. She and her husband emigrated to Canada in the early 1950's settling in Fort Erie. Helena was a member of the Catholic Women's League at St. Michael's church. She will be sadly missed by her family. **BENNER FUNERAL SERVICES**, 1105 Benner Ave. Fort Erie entrusted with arrangements. The family will receive friends on Monday July 22nd from 7-9. Funeral Mass will be conducted at St. Michael's Roman Catholic Church on Tuesday at 11 a.m. Interment to follow in Greenwood Cemetery. If so desired, donations to the Ontario Heart and Stroke would be appreciated. The family extend their heartfelt appreciation to the Doctors Kim and Scher, the nurses and PSWs at Maple Park Lodge where she lived, and at the Welland Hospital for the care provided to her in her final days.



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Obituaries

Obituaries

Obituaries

Obituaries

In Memoriams

In Memoriams



DAVIS, Roland George Roly - After a courageous battle, Roly passed away at the Douglas Memorial Hospital on July 20th, 2013. Beloved husband of Lois. Proud father of Russell (Janet) Davis, Susan Davis and Louise Davis. Cherished grandfather of Melissa, Katrina, Stephen and Carla. Also survived by his sister Lovin Annot. Roly will be fondly remembered by all who knew him, especially Bob and Lori Brown their children Meghan, Amber and Savannah who were considered family and Roly's best friend, his beloved golden retriever Casey. Predeceased by his grandson Adam. A long-time employee of Bell Canada, Roly was a proud hunter and fisherman, a member of the St. Catharines Game and Fish Association, and the Fort Erie Conservation Club. Always willing to lend a hand, Roly volunteered with the Boy Scouts of Canada, Junior Achievement and minor sports. **BENNER FUNERAL SERVICES**, 1105 Banner Ave. entrusted with arrangements. The family will receive friends on Thursday July 25th from 2-4 and 6-8. Funeral services will be held in the Benner Funeral Chapel on Friday morning at 11 am. If so desired, donations to the St. Catharines Game and Fish Association or the Hotel Dieu Shaver Hospital would be appreciated by the family.

HIBBARD, Geraldine - Passed away suddenly Thursday July 18th 2013. Beloved daughter of John and the late Evelyn Hibbard. Sister of Larry Roy (Joanna), David (Carrie) and Cindy Hansen. Gail is predeceased by her brother Robert and nephew Brandon Hibbard. At Gail's request cremation has taken place and a private family service has been held. Arrangements entrusted to **NIAGARA FUNERAL ALTERNATIVES**, 905-994-0120.

LOWE, Kelly - October 7, 1967 - July 19, 2013. Suddenly at her residence. Loving daughter of Elizabeth (John) Wootlie and Barry Lowe, cherished sister of Terrance (Lynne) Lowe, Mark (Malena) Lowe, Michael (Julie) Wootlie and Planette Dornavon. Dear aunt of Kristen, Eric, Kaitlyn, Jaidan, Stephen, James and Marcos. Kelly will be missed by relatives of the Borg and Lowe Families **WILLIAMS FUNERAL SERVICES**, 722 Ridge Road N. Ridgeway entrusted with arrangements. Visitation was held on Wednesday from 10-11 am and a service to celebrate Kelly's life followed in the chapel at 11 o'clock. Interment at St. John's Lutheran Cemetery, Snyder. In memory of Kelly, donations to the Schizophrenia Society of Ontario or to Canadian Diabetes Association would be appreciated. Online condolences at www.williamsfuneralservice.com

In Memoriams

In Memoriams

Will Mater
January 21, 1934 - July 29, 2007

Remembering you on this day,
As every day.

Love Mom, Dad, Vicky and Andy

Memories



Williams Funeral Services



October 11, 1963 - July 24, 2008

Not only one of a kind...
But one of the kindest...

Think of me often...
But only when you smile...

SUMBLER

In loving memory of my son, Ron, who passed away 7 years ago.

The flowers I place upon your grave,
May wither and decay,
But the love for you who sleeps beneath,
Shall never fade away.

I love you,
I miss you,
Till we meet again,
Mom.



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\$349,900

A small piece of paradise on 3+ acres.
Cozy country home with huge garage (#1952)

CRYSTAL BEACH



\$154,900

Cute as a button updated bungalow.
Within walking distance to all amenities. (#1953)

RIDGWAY



\$299,900

Live here and have it all. Large home with
lake view & private yard. (#1895)

CRYSTAL BEACH



\$149,900

Cute and cozy bungalow close to lake.
Relax & enjoy your family getaway. (#1909)

RIDGWAY



\$160,000

Energy Audit & all major updates completed
2 bedroom, double garage & huge corner lot. (#1923)

STEVENSVILLE



\$399,900

Beautiful unobstructed view of Niagara River.
3+1 bedroom home with lots of extras (#1925)

FORT ERIE



\$169,900

3-4 bdrm home on large lot in town.
Detached double car garage (#1943)

CRYSTAL BEACH



\$139,900

Live close to a beautiful beach in this
updated 3 bdrm. bungalow (#1956)

FORT ERIE



\$179,000

Walk to the Fort and Niagara River.
Super bungalow with garage. (#1960)

FORT ERIE



\$159,900

Spacious 4 bedroom home in town.
Paved drive, garage, shed & dock (#1961)

FORT ERIE



\$97,500

Nice little starter home.
2 bdrms close to Fort & River (#1966)

RIDGWAY



\$229,900

Never raised open concept bungalow
Nice walk to downtown Ridgeway (#1967)

FORT ERIE



\$139,900

Affordable move in ready bungalow with
2 bdrms & high, dry basement (#1971)

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